



LITTLE LEVER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

ON THE

HEALTH AND SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

URBAN DISTRICT OF LITTLE LEVER

FOR THE YEAR

1938

WM. MOTTERSHEAD, M.B., Ch.B.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

LITTLE LEVER USPAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF, 1938

Medical Officer of Health (Part Time)

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OTHER OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Clerk and Accountant

THOMAS NUTTALL

Surveyor (Joint appointment Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector)

WILLIAM PARKS

Collector

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Urban District of Little Lever for the year 1938

To the Chairman and Members of the
Little Lever Urban District Council:

I have pleasure in submitting for your approval my report, as Medical Officer of Health, on the health and sanitary conditions of Little Lever for the year ended December 31st, 1938.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

The area of the township is 808 acres. The estimated population is 4,756 as against 4,944 in the 1931 census. There are 1,544 inhabited houses in the area as against 1,429 in the 1931 census, this giving a rate of about 3 per house. The rateable value of the district is £19,231, and the sum represented by a penny rate is £71. Social conditions are fairly good on the whole, although there is a fairly large number of unemployed owing to the closing down of various works in and around the district. The district is largely industrial in character, the chief occupations being coal-mining, cotton-spinning and weaving, paper-making, ebonite manufacturing, chemical manufacturing and dairy-farming.

Births

The number of births registered in 1938 was 70, an increase of 3 on the preceding year. This figure is made up of 32 males and 38 females. There were 5 illegitimate births (1 male and 4 females). The birth rate is 14.7 per 1,000 of population, as against 13.9 for 1937, and a mean rate of 13.4 for the previous five years. The birth rate for England and Wales for 1938 was 15.1.

Still-Births

The number of still-births in 1938 was 6 (3 males and 3 females), and is equal to a rate per 1,000 of total births of 78 as against 56 in 1937. One of the still-births was an illegitimate.

Deaths

The number of deaths from all causes was 49. This figure is made up of 19 males and 30 females, and is a decrease of 25 on the figure for 1937. This gives a crude death rate of 10.3 per 1,000 of population as against 15.3 for 1937, and a mean crude death rate of 13.6 for the previous five years. The adjusted death rate for 1938 is 11.7 (comparability factor 1.14), whilst the death rate for England and Wales for 1938 was 11.6.

Infantile Mortality

The number of deaths of children under one year in 1938 was 2, both males, as against 3 in 1937. This gives a rate of 28 per 1,000 of live births as against a rate of 44 in 1937, and a mean rate of 60 for the previous five years. The Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales for 1938 was 53.

Maternal Mortality

Once again, no maternal deaths were registered in 1938, giving a nil rate, as in 1937, and a mean rate of 3.17 for the previous five years. The Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 of total births for England and Wales for 1938 was 2.97.

Causes of Death

The following table shows the deaths from all causes in 1938:

<u>Cause</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	2
Cancer	-	6
Diabetes	1	-
Cerebral Haemorrhage	-	1
Heart Disease	7	10
Other Circulatory Diseases	2	-
Bronchitis	-	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	1	1
Appendicitis	1	-
Other Digestive Diseases	1	-
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	-	2
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, etc.	2	-
Senility	2	1
Violence	1	1
Other Defined Diseases	-	4
Ill-defined or not known	-	1
<u>TOTALS:</u>	19	30

Cancer and Malignant Disease

The death rate from Cancer and Malignant Disease in 1938 was 1.26 per 1,000 of population as against 2.90 for 1937, and a mean rate of 1.68 for the previous five years.

Tuberculosis

New Cases and Mortality during 1938

<u>Age Periods</u> <u>Years</u>	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths</u>			
	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 to 1								
1 to 5								
5 to 10								
10 to 15		1				1		
15 to 20								
20 to 25								
25 to 35			1		1			
35 to 45						1		
45 to 55	1							
55 to 65	1							
65 and upwards								
	2	1	1	-	1	2	-	-
<u>TOTALS:</u>	3		1		3		Nil	

THE HISTORY OF THE

REIGN OF

CHARLES THE FIRST

BY

JOHN BURNET

OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

IN TWO VOLUMES

LONDON

Printed by J. Streater, at the Sign of the Gun, in St. Dunstons Church-yard, near St. Dunstons Church, in the County of Middlesex.

1679

By Authority

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The death rate from Tuberculosis of the respiratory system in 1938 was 0.63 per 1,000 of population, as against 0.62 in 1937, and a mean rate of 0.61 for the previous five years.

Midwifery Services

There is one midwife resident and practising in the district, but she is not on the County list of midwives engaged by the County Council. Two Maternity Nurses, both of whom are resident in Farnworth, have been engaged by the County Council, and are available for the people of Little Lever. Many cases, however, enter Townleys Hospital, Farnworth, and the Bealey Maternity Home, Radcliffe. In 1938, nearly 67% of the registered births occurred in Townleys Hospital, Farnworth.

General Provision of Health Services for the District

<u>Clinics and Treatment Centres</u>	<u>Situation</u>	<u>Provided by</u>	
Maternity and Child Welfare	Little Lever	Lancashire C.C.	
Tuberculosis	Farnworth	"	"
School Clinics	Little Lever	"	"
Venereal Diseases	Bolton	"	"

Infectious Diseases

The following cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during 1938:-

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Scarlet Fever	6	7	13
Erysipelas	1	2	3
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	1	3
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	-	1
<u>TOTALS:</u>	10	10	20

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1938

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total cases Notified</u>	<u>Cases sent to Hospital</u>	<u>Deaths in Hospital</u>	<u>Total Deaths</u>
Scarlet Fever	13	9	Nil	Nil
Erysipelas	3	2	Nil	Nil
<u>TOTALS:</u>	16	11	Nil	Nil

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

No cases of this disease were notified during 1938.

District Nursing Association

The District Nursing Association employs one nurse, and is affiliated to the County Nursing Association. As in past years the members of the Committee have worked whole-heartedly for their local Association, and have now got it on a really sound financial basis. The nurse has carried out her duties with the same unselfish devotion and marked proficiency as in the past, and the general public have done their share both financially and in co-operating with the nurse and the Committee.

Hospital Accommodation

The Council have an agreement with the Bury and District Joint Hospital Board for the reception and treatment of cases of Infectious Diseases. The Council is not yet a constituent member of the Board, but will be in the near future. Beds are available as required at the following Institutions:-

Small-pox Hospital, Ainsworth	-	-	for cases of
Small-pox			
Florence Nightingale Hospital, Bury	-		for other infectious diseases.

Both Hospitals are controlled by the Bury and District Joint Hospital Board, and the retaining fees payable by the Council are:-

Small-pox	-	£20 per annum
Other Diseases	-	£25 per annum

An ambulance for cases of Infectious Diseases is provided by the Joint Board for conveying patients to the hospitals. The cost of hospital cases in 1938 was at the rate of £4.4.0d per week of stay in the hospital.

Voluntary Hospital Arrangements

The Council subscribe the following amounts:-

Bolton Royal Infirmary	--	-	£10.10.0d per annum
Manchester and Salford Medical Charities	-	-	£30. 0.0d per annum
Little Lever District Nursing Association	-	-	£13.13.0d per annum

The Council have an agreement with the Farnworth Urban District Council whereby the latter provide an ambulance for conveying patients from the district to the various hospitals.

Adoptive Acts in Force

Public Health Acts (Amendment Act) 1890, Part 4
Public Health Acts (Amendment Act) 1907, Parts 2 and 4
Public Health Acts 1925, Part 2, except Sections 21 and 22

Sanitary Accommodation

The types of sanitary accommodation, with the number of each type at the end of 1938, were as follows:-

Privy Middens	18
Closets attached to these Middens	26
Pail Closets	4
Waste Water Closets	99
Fresh Water Closets	1,446
Movable Ashbins for refuse	1,435
Dry Ashpits (excluding middens)	48
No. of houses on Water Carriage System	1,507

During 1938, there have been no conversions of privy middens. The number of these abominations will be considerably reduced when the Slum Clearance schemes are completed. There will then be only a few left at outlying farms. The Council do not contribute to the cost of conversions, and property owners have generally carried out the wishes of the Council without any trouble. The sewers in the back streets are laid under Private Street Works, and conversions are carried out under Section 36 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

The number of premises visited during 1938 for the purpose of sanitary inspections, was 78. The number of nuisances discovered was 56. Of these, 53 were abated as a result of 56 informal notices, leaving three nuisances outstanding.

Bakehouses, Dairies and Cowsheds have all been periodically inspected and found to be in a satisfactory condition.

Factories and Workshops have also been periodically inspected and found to be in a satisfactory condition.

Water Supply

The water supply is from the Irwell Valley Water Board's mains, and is constant. All houses are directly connected, the number of houses with piped supplies being 1,543. During 1938, small extensions have been carried out for building development.

Sewage Disposal

The method of sewage disposal during 1938 has again been quite satisfactory. Sewage is treated by settlement tanks and by percolating filters. Small extensions to the sewerage system have been carried out during the year for building development. The Mersey and Irwell Joint Committee's Inspectors have tested the effluent periodically during the year, and have found it satisfactory. One area, Leadbeater Fold, is without a proper drainage system, but is being dealt with under a Clearance Order under the Housing Act. The flushing of sewers and the cleaning of manholes has been carried out periodically.

The arrangements for scavenging and removal of house refuse have been quite efficient during the year. A covered wagon collects house refuse once a week, and refuse from privy closets once every two weeks. The refuse is disposed of by tipping on waste land.

Smoke Abatement

The Council are members of the Manchester Regional Smoke Abatement Committee. The time limit for the emission of black smoke is two minutes per hour. There are 15 factory and works chimneys in the district, and three observations in respect of each chimney were made during 1938, but no legal proceedings were necessary.

Eradication of bedbugs

(1) No. of houses found to be infested:-

(i)	Council	-	4
(ii)	Other houses	-	3

No. of houses disinfested:-

(i)	Council	-	4
(ii)	Other houses	-	3

(2) All houses fumigated with sulphur and "Cimex"

(3) With regard to p.(ii), two of these houses were under Slum Clearance, and the houses and tenants' furniture, etc. were fumigated before rehousing on Council's Estate.

(4) Disinfestation is carried out by the Council.

(5) The houses are visited frequently to ensure against infestation, or re-infestation, and cleanliness is impressed upon the tenants.

Shops

Shops are inspected from time to time and as occasion demands.

Housing

Number of Houses erected during 1938

(a)	Total, including numbers given separately under	(b)	43
	i. By the Local Authority		34
	ii. By other Local Authorities		Nil
	iii. By other bodies or persons		9
(b)	With State Assistance under the Housing Acts:		
	i. By the Local Authority (included under (a)i. above)		34
	ii. By other bodies or persons (uncluded under (a)iii. above)		Nil

1. Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the year

(1)(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	71
(b)	No. of inspections made for the purpose	114
(2)(a)	No. of dwelling-houses (included under 1 above) inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932)	1
(b)	No. of inspections made for the purpose	1
(3)	No. of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1
(4)	No. of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those under 3 above) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	16

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notice:

No. of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	16
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

i. No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	1
ii. No. of dwelling-houses rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By local authority in default of owners	1

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts	Nil
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(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of Housing Act, 1936:

i. No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	Nil
ii. No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	2

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of Housing Act 1936	Nil
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4. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV - Overcrowding

(a) i. No. of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	6
ii. No. of families dwelling therein	6
iii. No. of persons dwelling therein	42
(b) No. of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	Nil
(c) i. No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during year	2
ii. No. of persons concerned in such cases	14

Housing Conditions

Number of houses owned by the Local Authority

1. Under 1919 Scheme	113
2. Under Housing Act, 1923	11
3. Under Housing Act, 1924	122
4. Erected during 1936	30
5. Erected during 1937	38
6. Erected during 1938	34
	<u>348</u>

The general standard of housing is fairly good. The prevalent type is the four-roomed cottage containing two bedrooms. There are about 1,100 of this type. Houses are mostly in a good state of repair, but there are about 200 houses which are below the general standard. The chief defects are dampness, low ceilings and old age. The overcrowding found has been dealt with satisfactorily by transferring the occupants to Council Houses. There are now only two back-to-back houses in the district, the others having been dealt with under Clearance Orders.

There is still a shortage of low-rental cottage type houses, but it is hoped to commence the building of 8 bungalows and 18 two and three bedroom type cottages during 1939. During 1938, the Council built 34 new houses, but these were tenanted mainly by families displaced by the demolition of condemned property. There is still a long waiting list of persons desiring Council houses, but as yet, not all who are living in condemned property have been provided with alternative accommodation. When these have been provided with new houses, it will still be necessary for the Council to build more houses.

There are 10 houses in the district without a separate water closet or other adequate sanitary accommodation, and there is one house without an adequate internal water supply.

Town Planning

The Council are members of the Bolton and District Regional Planning Committee, and representatives from the Council attend the meetings of this Committee, and take a keen interest in the work, whilst the Council works in collaboration with the Committee.

Milk Supply

The Farms and Dairies within the district are maintained in a clean condition, and are inspected periodically.

Meat and other foods

There are no slaughterhouses in the district, all slaughtering being carried out in abattoirs in neighbouring districts, but frequent visits are paid to all butchers shops within the district.

Disinfection

The number of houses disinfected after infectious diseases was 12. The method of disinfection is by Formaldehyde Gas.

Public Health Laboratory

During 1938, four throat swabs from suspected cases of Diphtheria were sent for examination to the Public Health Laboratory, High Street, Manchester, but the report was negative in all cases.

General Observations

The general health of the district during 1938 was very good. There were no epidemics, and there was no necessity for closing the schools. The number of cases of infectious diseases was considerably less than in 1937, and of the cases notified, there was nothing of a serious nature. The number of deaths was much less than in 1937, and the births showed a welcome increase.

Satisfactory progress continues to be made in the matter of sanitary improvements to the district. The number of privy middens has dwindled to an almost insignificant figure, the few that remain being mostly at outlying farms. Steady progress has also been made in the demolishing of old, unhealthy property, and its replacement by modern cottages, with the result that the appearance of the district is gradually changing and assuming a cleaner, more orderly and modern aspect. The drab rows of the older houses with their absence of gardens and air space, contrast most unfavourably with the orderly layout, and in most cases, neat gardens of the Council houses. The tenants of the Council houses are, for by far the greater part, very good tenants, who take a pride not only in the internal appearance of the house, but also in the garden. There are, however, a few who would do well to make an effort, however small, to emulate their more "house-proud" and "garden-proud" neighbours.

The chief needs of the district are still the same as in 1937. There is still a shortage of modern low-rental cottages. Economic conditions, though not bad, are not really good, and houses at rentals of ten to thirteen shillings weekly are beyond the means of most of the people. Moreover, the old property in the district is far behind the Council houses in the matter of amenities for personal cleanliness, so that persons needing a house will wait for the chance of a Council house rather than rent one of the older houses.

As in previous years, the Clinics and Treatment Centres provided by the Lancashire County Council have been of great benefit to the district, especially the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.

The recreational facilities provided by the Council in the Bowling Green and Playing Field have been very successful and have been a great attraction to many of the inhabitants. The Bowling Green in particular has more than proved its worth and has been extensively patronised.

W. MOTTERSHEAD, M.B., Ch.B.,
Medical Officer of Health.

24th June, 1939.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for the Urban District of Little Lever for the
year 1938, on the Administration of the Factory
and Workshops Act, 1901, and the Factories Act,
1937

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health, including
inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.

<u>Premises</u> 1	<u>Number of</u>		
	<u>Inspections</u> 2	<u>Written Notices</u> 3	<u>Occupiers Prosecuted</u> 4
Factories with mechanical power	18	1	Nil
Factories without mechanical power	12	Nil	Nil
Other Premises under the Act	26	Nil	Nil
TOTAL:	56	1	Nil

2. DEFECTS FOUND

<u>Particulars</u> 1	<u>Number of defects</u>			<u>No. of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted</u> 5
	<u>Found</u> 2	<u>Remedied</u> 3	<u>Referred to H.M. Inspector</u> 4	
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences:				
i. Insufficient	-	-	-	-
ii. Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-
iii. Not separate for sexes	1	1	-	-
Other offences	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:	2	2	Nil	Nil

W. MOTTERSHEAD, M.B., Ch.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.

24th June, 1939.

Outwork in Unwholesome Premises (Section 108 of Act of 1901)

<u>Nature of Work</u>	<u>Instances</u>	<u>Notices served</u>	<u>Prosecutions</u>
1	2	3	4
Wearing Apparel - Making etc. Cleaning and washing Household linen Lace, lace curtains and nets Curtains and furniture hangings Furniture and upholstery Electro-plate File making Brass and brass articles Fur pulling Cables and chains Anchors and grapnels Cart gear Locks, latches and keys Umbrellas, etc. Artificial flowers Nets, other than wire nets Tents Sacks Racquet and tennis balls Paper, etc., boxes, paper bags Brush making Pea picking Feather sorting Carding, etc. of buttons, etc. Stuffed toys Basket making Chocolates and sweetmeats Cosaques, Christmas crackers, Christmas stockings, etc. Textile weaving Lampshades			
TOTAL:	Nil	Nil	Nil

W. MOTTERSHEAD, M.B., Ch.B.,
Medical Officer of Health

24th June, 1939.

